

KARO-ECHO Membership Meeting

October 12, 2020

via Zoom

Attendees

NI6A	Don Simon
AA6AT	Chris Harwood
KJ6AAT	David Swanson
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey
KN6BUY	Tom Fattaruso
KN6CMP	Blake Yeaman
KN6CMR	Susan Yeaman
KI6DOG	Doug Mosher
KM6HFT	Curt Smith
KM6HFU	Todd Teachout
KJ6IUV	Frans Kuypers
KZ1NDB	Naomi Black
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske
KC6OBK	Marian Gade
KM6UBY	Edward Carney
KK6RED	Diane Richwine
KJ6SWK	Annette McCoubrey
KM6UCF	Natalie DeJarlais
KK6UQX	Alvin Todd
KJ6WSS	Jay Fenton
KK6ZPM	Karen Leong Fenton
	Walter Pyle

Minutes were approved from the September meeting.

Training

Jay KJ6WSS presented portable antenna mounting systems and portable communications stations. [See the slides here.](#)

For the upcoming SET on 10/24/20, everyone should ideally be in the field. If we're using an HT, we can get good results with a 40" whip antenna; even better is a 5" magmount base that supports a 40" whip. A 15" whip is the minimum we should use.

Window washing poles with 20' of feed line can be used to convert a pole into an antenna mast.

U bolts and brackets allow you to attach the pole to a signpost or fencepost for stability. The pole fits into the U bolts, and no wrench is needed.

- Round U bolts on a square pole work fine.
- In this photo, the portable desk is bolted to the post.
- Karen is using a speaker mike here, w/ HT clipped to the board.
- This PEAK weighs 40 lbs and fits in a Honda Fit. Jay created a flat surface that allow the desk to roll in and roll out of the hatchback, and also devised protection to prevent window breakage.
- Setup is 10 minutes or less.

Jay has built four heavy drive-on mounts that are useful where no street poles are available. Jerry pointed out that this would be very useful where there are a lot of power lines to avoid.

Recommendations/Caveats

- Look overhead! Steer clear of power lines. If it's windy, stay far enough from the power lines to avoid contact.
- Look for a clear line of sight to the station(s) you want to reach.
- In case of rain, feed the cable into the car.
- Parking lot in front of Lucky's is a good location.
- On a square pole, offset the U bolt for stability.
- Roads have crowns, so parking lots are better/flatter

Jay has also built a portable communications station on wheels with everything you need. It sets up in six minutes.

Visit the [Marina Bay Neighbors website](#) for more information, including the section on [PEAK \(Portable Emergency Antenna Kit\)](#).

SET on Oct. 24th

- The fall KARO-ECHO SET will be held on 10/24 from 10-12, plus a post mortem immediately following.

- Participants should sign up online via the Google Form.
- Howdy hopes that the two hours will be faster paced and allow a higher density of traffic.
- The SET will be based on an earthquake scenario and operators will report their MM assessment.
- Field operation on battery power is encouraged.
- Howdy would like to have multiple net control operators.
- We'll have a simulated EOC, as we can't get into EC City Hall due to the pandemic. The DMV parking lot is close by and should work.
- Do engage FRS/GMRS participants where/if possible
- Howdy is planning on 2 messages for each operator, on a schedule to spread things out. Improvised traffic is encouraged, though; be assertive about breaking in and getting acknowledged (without being detrimental)
- We'll use the net frequency, and will move off frequency for message passing.
- Howdy encourages non-KE participation; ok to operate from other locations.

GMRS/FRS Participation

Karen (KK6ZPM) requested feedback on community hubs and how she can support them.

- Hal reported that it is difficult to get people to check in. Maybe the SET will be a good opportunity, because it seems more "real."
- Don mentioned a motivation issue with block captains. A number of people in EC9 have bought GMRS radios, but haven't been able to make time for the Wednesday night nets.
- David & Diane host two nets; one at 6:45 and one at 7:30. The 7:30 is GMRS with Richmond and generally has around 13 people. At 6:45, on Walt's repeater (WA6DUR/R [442.1500 PL 107.2 Plus 5 MHz]), they're getting a lot of hams. It takes PR work to get participation.

New Members and Meeting Participants

Don (NI6A) reported that there are 5 or 6 new KARO-ECHO attendees.

Special welcome to the following new faces at this meeting:

- Todd Teachout (KM6HFU) EBARC member & officer from Hercules
- Chris Harwood (AA6AT; GMRS WRFE962), from El Sobrante, east side of the hills. "Valley of Darkness." Happy to be a "loose participant."
- Naomi Black (KZ1NDB), from San Francisco.
- Doug Mosher (KI6DOG), from Oakland.
- Alvin Todd (KK6UQX)

Other New Business

- KE is the only radio group in Contra Costa County signed up for The Great Shakeout, happening on October 15, 2020. That is a Thursday, and we'll

acknowledge it then with a Modified Mercalli Intensity scale exercise.

- Diane (KK6RED) and David (KJ6AAT) are giving a Zoom class on radio messaging on Wednesday, 10/14, focusing on the workings of ICP. They will cover what to do with the paperwork, etc. This is a class prepared for the Richmond Office of Emergency Services and will involve CERT. The KE newsletter has the link.
- David also mentioned the monthly Richmond EOC radio test on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m., for which he serves as net control. It's an open call, with people reporting their antennas and power. The test will start on 147.450 MHz, then move at the NCS's direction to 441.000 MHz, and finally 223.400 MHz all simplex.
- Several GMRS radios were gifted to El Cerrito: Hal wants to discuss this at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.